



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
RALPH ROSENBERG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

First Draft of minutes of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission Meeting –May 17, 2007,
Location: Grimes Office Building –ICRC offices –

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll Call ---Connie, Alicia, Debbie Gitchell, Rich Eychaner, Nancy, Tim --Ralph present
- III. Recognition of Public and Press—Jason Clayworth --DMR
- IV. Iowa Civil Rights Commission ---Approval of March Minutes by voice vote .
- V. Commissioners' Reports and Subcommittee Reports

Comm. Chair Alicia Claypool– West DM --safe schools; SO-GI; (one of top 5 most important things involved in in her life) –thanking the many groups that contributed: AFSCME; Brad Clark/GLBT groups; Interfaith Alliance; Legislative leadership; business leaders; others. Noting that 1965 was when ICRC was created. Noting the great teamwork; additional appropriation (appreciation to Rich for his work); attended the IASB conference on the anti-bullying bill—almost seemed that there was a sense that the bill should not be taken seriously until litigated; all speakers wanted to reduce bullying, but when it came to bullying of gay kids, one speaker seemed to think the religion takes precedence over bullying laws; and great misunderstanding on G I—thus, need for education with education groups (IDE, IASB, SAI, ISEA) and in the schools.

Also talked about AIR (Americans for Immigration Reform); Attended Asian festival on Saturday in DM, and a meeting of the W. DM HRC in April w/ Jennifer Fath and Christian ??, our VISTA volunteers.

Commissioner Connie Gronstal – Council Bluffs-----no report

Commissioner Rick Morain – Jefferson--absent

Commissioner Timothy Tutt – DM—Attended legislative breakfast in March, went to Capitol to witness final debate and votes on SO-GI bill. Is proud of the coalition of people and groups who were involved in the bill's passage.

Commissioner Nancy Witt –Reinbeck-----Road to Freedom bus—August 8 at Nollen Plaza—coming to DM and Cedar Rapids;

Commissioner Rich Eychaner—discussion on his history and work on safe schools and SO-GI; attended the IASB conference (Rich noted no discussion of the GI components of the bill)

Commissioner Debbie Gitchell—Ames—attended Fair Housing conference in Ames with apartment managers

- VI. Executive Director's Report – RR discussed legislative successes—bi-partisan; interfaith; business and labor; straight and gay; not just DM; volunteer lawyers and law students; also discussed applying for grants –DOJ; HUD (FHIP grants); and special appropriations
- VII. Old Business—
Legislative update: Subpoena bill – didn't pass H but passed in S. Hate crimes – a technical bill that didn't pass. English Only – no support by legislative leadership. Several predatory lending bills approved (car title, mortgage lending). Funding for a study of accessibility of public buildings also didn't pass. Not our bill, but approved was a bill to require diversity of department heads and next level down; IDHR will provide this training.

Also approved for 3 VISTA volunteers; need 1 bilingual. Marshalltown and Ottumwa using local police as ICE agents to enforce immigration laws.

- VIII. New Business—planning for joint new member orientation/ incumbent member refresher training/annual strategic planning-----Hold Aug. 16th from 10 to 4
- topics for orientation/training—not yet determined

- IX. Next Meeting Date and Location— August 16th, DM; Oct. 11, 3:30 pm; Dec. 13, 3:30 pm

- X. Adjournment

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. **May 22, 2007** Joint Public Hearing with Marshalltown Human Rights Commission, Iowa Valley Community College District 3700 S Center St., Marshalltown